Islam Republic of Iran’s 47th JAG Statement

Thank You Madam Chair

My delegation is pleased to attend the 47th Annual Meeting of the Joint Advisory Group of the International Trade Centre.

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you, Madam Chair, for presiding over this Group which, in our view, will be in an efficient manner and to express our appreciation to your predecessor, for his able leadership too. Allow me also to praise the ITC Executive Director, Madam. Patricia Francis and her professional team for their efforts and activities devoted to the developing countries during her tenure from 2006 to 2013. Furthermore, we are grateful to the ITC for providing us a number of well-drafted reports including the comprehensive report on the activities of the Centre in 2012, as well as the strategic plan for the period 2013-2016 and for their works in preparing for this meeting as such.

Madam Chair,

The work and performance of the ITC, and its right focus on developing capacities in the format of the provision of technical assistance, strengthening Trade Support Institutions and mainstreaming the principles of inclusiveness and sustainable development into trade promotion and development policies in developing countries should be appreciated. We should also acknowledge the professionalism of the ITC which, in the light of its multifaceted character as a development agency of the UN, and a center of capacity building for foreign trade in a framework of the
rules-based multilateral trading system of WTO, has proven to be a unique and irreplaceable tool.

Madam Chair,

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the work of the ITC and we are committed to maintain the excellent working relationship that we have had with the ITC for many years and gotten benefit of its deliveries. In pursuing this valuable cooperation, we have recently submitted a few proposals to the ITC, the implementation of which have been faced with restraining of resources which is, by and large, understandable. At the same time, we highly expect and do hope that, there would be a space and place for Iran to be amongst the rather long list of beneficiaries and recipients. To that end, we demand the ITC and its policy and mandate makers – the parent’s organization- to expand the scope of their contributions of investment in development so as to encompass the needs of developing countries which is, indisputably, of high importance. In other words, while it is clear that, due attention should be paid to the least developed countries; we should, however, not lose sight of the fact that, the developing countries are also in dire need of assistance to be able to achieve developments Goals and full integration into global value chains. This is why we are confident that the ITC will find a proper way for keeping its existing vivid cooperation with us as a developing country.

Madam Chair,
For almost twenty years, Iran has embarked on the path of economic liberalization with the aim of integration into world trade and multilateral trading system - WTO- for the realization of which a number of measures have been taken. Nevertheless, there are many heavy and technical steps and responsibilities which should be taken by acceding countries in accession process to WTO, all of which would require a comprehensive and expanded knowledge and capacity. In this regard and as it has been highlighted by all technical assistance recipients, the ITC has a brilliant ability, knowledge and experience which are being utilized by some acceding countries. However, we invited the ITC, in accordance with its principles and objectives, to go beyond its current concentration on specific group of acceding countries and to share its valuable assets with all acceding countries in an expanded mandate framework.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, we wish a successful year ahead for the ITC during which, we do hope that the outstanding programs submitted by my country could also be implemented. The Islamic Republic of Iran, on its part, remains committed to actively participate and constructively engage with the Centre with a view to further realization of its objectives.

Thank you